(i) Project oriented lines to serve new industries for tapping mineral and other resources.

(ii) Missing links for completing alternative routes.

(iii) Lines required for strategic reasons; and

(iv) Lines for establishment of new growth centres or giving access to remote areas.

Apart from this, the financial viability of the project is also taken into consideration. As per extant norms, a project is considered financially justified if it yields a return of not less than 14% under Discounted Cash Flow Method.

(d) Detailed State-wise figures of the Route Kms. of the railways at the end of 2004-05 is given in the Railway Year Book 2004-05 which is distributed alongwith Railway Budget Documents.

Discontinuing the I and II class A.C.

†3782. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any intention to discontinue the I class A.C. and II class A.C. in the trains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any action plan or time-limit has been fixed in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Development of rail network in Orissa

3783. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa State is entering into an era of industrial resurgence which needs development of adequate railway network in the State;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether this backward region has all along been a victim of callous negligence at the Centre in regard to development of the rail infrastructure;

(c) whether a request has been made by the the Chief Minister of Orissa and others for adequate allotment of funds during the current budget and also introduction of new trains; and

(d) if so, the status thereof, indicating the action plan of the Centre to develop this sector in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) STATUS AND ACTION PLAN

(i) The outlay for projects falling partly/fully in Orissa has been increased to Rs. 663 crores during 2006-07. A number of projects are being implemented on fast track basis by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.

(ii) The following services serving the passengers of Orissa have been announced in the Rail Budget 2006-07:

Introduction

1. Howrah-Puri Express (bi-weekly)
2. Bhubaneswar-Pondicherry Express (weekly)
3. Bhubaneswar-Baripada Express (tri-weekly)
4. Howrah-Mumbai Express (weekly)
5. Tatanagar-Yesvantpur Express (weekly)

Extension:

1. 8305/8306 Raipur-Sambalpur Express to Bhubaneswar
2. 8467/8468 Puri-Jaipur Express to Jodhpur
3. 8563/8564 Bangalore-Visakhapatnam Prashanti Express to Bhubaneswar
4. 211/212 Puri-Sambalpur Passenger to Rourkela

5. 7227/7228 Vasco-Vijayawada Express to Howrah (4 days a week)

6. 8507/8508 Visakhapatnam-Nizamuddin Hirakud Express to Amritsar.

Increase in Frequency:

1. 2811/2812 Hatia-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express from weekly to bi-weekly.

2. 5625/5626 Bangalore-Guwahati Express from bi-weekly to tri-weekly.

New rail line between Mehsana-Ambaji

†3784. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any action to conduct survey of new railway line between Mehsana-Ambaji *via* Taranga;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A survey has been taken up for gauge conversion of Mehsana-Taranga Hill (57 kms.) with extension from Taranga Hill to Ambaji (55 kms.)

Rail fares

3785. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has announced that rail fares would not be raised, but indirectly the railways are taxing the passengers by way of increase in cancellation of reservation charges, charging additional fares on recently names super-fast trains, increase in the reservation charges, etc.;

(b) whether a passenger is not issued a ticket for any en-route station if the train does not stop there, as against the earlier practice of issuing such tickets upto main halts en-route;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.